LPG connection on the recommendations of Members of Rajya Sabha

2964. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quota fixed for LPG connections for the recommendation of Members of Rajya Sabha and the period taken into account therefor;

(b) the time taken for releasing the connections after receipt of the recommendation; and

(c) what is the procedure for informing the Members of Parliament in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) 48 connections in a calender year subject to 12 connections per quarter for each Member of Parliament. Consolidated recommendations are sent for release to the oil companies in the first week of every month.

(c) Each Member is informed by a letter.

Purchase of Oil

2965. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state whether Government have made any spot purchases of oil in the context of the present dwindling oil prices; if so, the quantity thereof and the country from which it has been purchased and the foreign exchange involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFNECE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): The spot purchases of crude oil are made from time to time on the basis of requirement and are not always relatable to specific countries. Upto 13th December, 1991, commitment for the import of 8.810 MMT crude oil on spot purchases has been made.

Continuance of Gulf Surcharge

2966. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of the continuation of surcharge of 25 per cent imposed on all petroleum products in October, last year, in the wake of Gulf crisis, the deficit in the oil industry pool account is expected to soar by about Rs. 1,227 crore during the current financial year and to Rs. 6,127 crore by the end of 1991-92;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the mounting deficit;

(c) whether Government propose to continue levy of 25 per cent Gulf Surcharge; and

(d) in what manner Government propose to countenance this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (d) Deficit in the Oil Industry Pool Accounts during and at the end of the current financial year (1991-92) would depend on cost of production, international prices of imports of crude oil and petroleum products, sales realisations from the sale of petroleum products, volume of consumption etc. Deficits have occurred during the past two years in the pool account because sales realisations did not fully cover the cost incurred. There is no proposal at present to withdraw the Gulf Surcharge. Prices of some of the petroleum products were increased in July, 1991 to check the deficit and the situation is being monitored closely.

Royalty on Crude

2967. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 199 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th December, 1991